

Long-Term Care Regulatory Provider Letter

Number: PL 2026-10 Revised

Title: LTCR Provider Responsibilities for the Search Engine for Multi-Agency Reportable Conduct (SEMARC)

Provider Types: Assisted Living Facilities (ALF), Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS), DAHS-Individualized Skills and Socialization (DAHS-ISS), Home and Community-Based Services (HCS), Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCSSA), Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability or Related Conditions (ICF/IID), Nursing Facilities (NF), Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers (PPECC) and Texas Home Living (TxHmL)

Occupational License Types and Other: Medication Aide (MA) Schools and Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Programs (NATCEPs)

Date Issued: August 6, 2026

1.0 Subject and Purpose

This letter has been revised to include information on a hold-harmless period in Section 2.0, *Policy Details and Provider Responsibilities*.

The purpose of this letter is to inform providers of the implementation of Senate Bill 1849, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023. The bill created Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 810, Interagency Reportable Conduct Search Engine. The interagency search engine is formally named the Search Engine for Multi-Agency Reportable Conduct (SEMARC). SEMARC provides a common platform for authorized users to search information across multiple agencies for individuals with reportable conduct.

SEMARC results are used to determine an individual's eligibility for employment, volunteer positions, certifications, contracts, or licensure with entities regulated or licensed by participating state agencies.

SEMARC results include information from the following sources:

- **HHSC's Employee Misconduct Registry (EMR)** includes individuals who are not eligible for hire in long-term care settings regulated by HHSC as a result of reportable conduct.

- **Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) - DFPS' Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas** (IMPACT) case management system, which contains confirmed cases of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation in Texas.
- **Texas Education Agency (TEA) - TEA's Do Not Hire Registry** includes individuals who are not eligible for hire in Texas public schools due to findings of misconduct, including inappropriate relationships with students or other serious violations.
- **Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) - TJJD's Registry** includes individuals who have had their certification revoked or been found ineligible to be certified to work or provide services in juvenile justice facilities or programs for engaging in misconduct, including but not limited to abuse, neglect, or exploitation of juveniles.

Historically, the Texas Administrative Code has required providers to search the EMR to verify a person's employability status. The requirement to search EMR will be replaced with the requirement to search SEMARC.

Rule amendments are in process for each Long-term Care Regulation (LTCR) program and will reflect the new SEMARC requirements.

2.0 Policy Details & Provider Responsibilities

ALF, DAHS, DAHS-ISS, HCSSA, Licensed ICF/IID Facilities, NFs, PPECCs, Medication Aide Schools and Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program - These providers will be required to use SEMARC, in addition to the Nurse Aide Registry (NAR), to determine a person's employability beginning August 3, 2026. Providers will access SEMARC through the [Texas Unified Licensure Information Portal](#) (TULIP).

Hold Harmless Period August 3, 2026 - October 5, 2026

HHSC will not survey for compliance for SEMARC requirements until October 6, 2026. This will allow time for providers to be trained and update business processes. As a reminder, providers must continue to comply with all existing rules and regulations.

Unlicensed ICF/IID Facilities (State Supported Living Centers) –

These providers will be required to use SEMARC, in addition to the NAR, to determine a person's employability status beginning August 3, 2026.

Providers will access SEMARC through [IAMOnline](#).

Hold Harmless Period August 3, 2026 - October 5, 2026

HHSC will not survey for compliance for SEMARC requirements until October 6, 2026. This will allow time for providers to be trained and update business processes. As a reminder, providers must continue to comply with all existing rules and regulations.

HCS and TxHmL – These providers will have access to SEMARC through TULIP in early 2027. Until then these providers will continue to conduct EMR searches using existing processes. HCS and TxHmL providers will receive notification once SEMARC is available to them.

2.1 Logging into SEMARC through TULIP

You will log into SEMARC by clicking the "SEMARC" option under the "Other Actions" tab in [TULIP](#). You will use your TULIP login information for SEMARC.

If you do not see the "SEMARC" option under the "Other Actions" tab in TULIP it means that you have not yet been granted access to SEMARC. Contact your facility security authority to request access to SEMARC.

2.2 Helpdesk Information and Troubleshooting Examples

A link to the SEMARC User Guide can be found on the SEMARC landing page under the "Help" tab. You will need to be logged in to SEMARC through TULIP to access the landing page. If you do not find the answer to your question or issue in the user guide, you can contact the TULIP helpdesk or SEMARC helpdesk.

TULIP Helpdesk - (512) 438-2584

SEMARC Helpdesk - (877) 798-1077

TULIP Service Desk Scope of Coverage:

- Access and permissions management
- Incident reporting and troubleshooting
- Scheduled maintenance and updates
- SEMARC Access Issues in TULIP
- Technical solutions for users
- TULIP software application defects

SEMARC Service Desk Scope of Coverage:

- Data loading or display issues
- Incorrect or missing data
- Search or reporting issues
- Upload or submission failures
- Workflow or processing issues

Participating agencies will direct non-agency users, such as school district staff, HHSC long-term care providers, contractors, or juvenile probation department staff, to contact their associated agency for additional information or assistance needed to make decisions regarding employment, certification, contracting, or volunteering.

If the individual being searched has questions or concerns about the search outcome that the agency receiving the results cannot address, the individual should be directed to contact the agency that provided the results.

TOPIC	EMAIL
Long-Term Care Facilities Only: Questions involving the Texas Administrative Code for EMR/SEMARC requirements, questions providers may have about whether they have to check SEMARC annually, etc.	LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov
Long-Term Care Facilities Only: If the results return a different name, spelling or SSN that do not provide a clear answer about the individual's employability	SEMARC-EMR@hhs.texas.gov
Long-Term Care Facilities Only: For questions that come in from unlicensed staff of HHS-regulated facilities.	credential@hhs.texas.gov
HHSC may provide adverse action letters and final orders placing individuals on the EMR, if available, to non-participating agencies, providers, or the public. Information made confidential by statute may not be provided.	openrecordsrequest@hhs.texas.gov

Questions about Health Care Regulation EMR results	SEMARC-EMR@hhs.texas.gov
Questions about TEA results	TEA Help Desk
Questions about DFPS results	semarc@dfps.texas.gov
Questions about TJJD results	semarcsupport@tjjd.texas.gov

3.0 Background/History

Senate Bill 1849, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, created Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 810, Interagency Reportable Conduct Search Engine.

4.0 Contact Information

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Policy and Rules Section by email at LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov or call (512) 438-3161.